# UNISON Cymru/Wales

## **WOMENS GROUP**

For women, trade union membership is as relevant as ever. UNISON has almost one million women members - more than two thirds of our union. Regrettably, women have still not reached a position of workplace equality – women still earn a lot less than men and face sex discrimination and harassment at work. We also know that UNISON women members are under increasing pressure to juggle work and home commitments. Almost half of women work part-time and this is largely because so many have caring responsibilities outside of the workplace.

The UNISON Cymru Wales Women's Self Organised Group provides a supportive environment where women are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the union. The group allows women to come together to campaign around issues that are affecting them, and to strengthen our public services and build a fairer society.

The group meets at least four times a year across Wales and takes part in events that raise the profile of women, such as International Women's Day, White Ribbon Day and No Pay Day. The group is always eager to improve skills, knowledge and understanding of women's issues, and plan campaign events to support their work.

The group is steered by the Women's Committee - elected bi-annually - but new



and existing members are welcome to take part. The group is an excellent way for new members to get more involved with their union!

A women's development weekend is held each year, and the weekend is themed around a topic that specifically affects women. Members also attend regional events, meetings and committees on behalf of the group to ensure that activity in the region incorporates the needs of women members.

Women are being hit the hardest by the austerity measures being imposed by the UK Government, which is seeing the rollback of the welfare state. Women rely upon public services more than men and they also make up the majority of the workforce in the public sector, so it is clear that women will be disproportionately affected by the decimation of public services.

The Cymru Wales Women's Self - Organised Group works with Branches and external groups to help eliminate discrimination in the workplace and campaign for equality for women. Gender equality is a fight worth fighting, and UNISON will never give up.

If you wish to know more about the Cymru Wales Women's Self Organised Group, or would like to take part, please see contact details overleaf. Find out more about



Cymru/Wales Women's Group

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UNISON campaigns to keep services public and strengthen the voice of public service workers.

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